Receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

Sd/-(K. V. KRISHNAMURTHY) Asstt. Director General (PHB)

**Railway mail service in the tountry**

868. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway mail service which was operating for the last si many years has been withdrawn resulting in the delay in postal deliveries;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the postal services for the last so many years have deteriorated to a great extent and mails are delivered very late ss compared to previous service;

(d) if so, what measures are being taken to improve postal services;

(e) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to restart the railway mail sarvice for effecting quick deliveries of postal mail- and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) -No, Sir. the Railway Mail Service continues to operate as part of the Postal System.

(b) Does not arise,

(c). No, Sir-,

(d) Does not arise.

(ee) and (f). Takling into account all relevant factors, the-Derjarrpent had taken a decision to utilise the exising accommodation in RMS Mail Vans for conveyance of pre-sortcd mail. The position is reviewed from time to time and so far there have been no circumstances justifying a revision of this policy. Reviews have shown that the operational change indicated above has had no significant bearing on time of transit bags rather than sorting of mails, delivery of mails; while at the same time considerable economy of expenditure has been achieved.

**Arbitration Board) to settle the disputes in telecom commission**

869. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom commission has decided to set up an arbitration board to settle the disputes between service providers and subscribers;

(b) whether it has also been decided to segregate subscribers into business and non business categories for charging a higher tariff from the former group and lower from the latter groups;

_(c) whether these decisions were passed on the recommendations made by the BICP; and

(d) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF' COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKR RAM): (a) to (c). Sir, Telecom. Commission has ' accented "the recommendation of BICP for setting up of Arbitration Board to sort put billing and other disputes'. Implementation details are being worked out and will be decided after consulting the Ministry of Law

Telecom. Commission has also agreed to the classificaton of subs-crores into business and non business categories, for differential tariff, A Committee has been set up to work out the modalities for its implementation.

(d) All out efforts are being made to expedite the action.

**Requirement of Jelly Filled cables by DOT**

870. SHRI PASUPON THA KIRU-TTINAN: Will the Minister of COM MUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the present capacity of Direct Exchnge connections available in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the capacity during the Eigtth Five Year Plan;

(c) what is the total amount of allocation proposed for this purpose;

(d) what is the total capacity and production of Jelly filled Telephone cables to meet the demand of DOT and other departments;

(e) what will be the future demand of Jelly filled Telephone cables to meet the future demand of the DOT; and

(tf) what are the arrangements made to meet the demand of J F. Telephone cables during the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) The capacity of Direct Exchange con-neetionq as on 30.8.93 is 69.11 lakh lines in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Around Rs. 23500 crores has been proposed for the purpose.

(d) The total licenced capacity of the manufacturing units is 225 LCkm per year and installed capa city is 221 LCkm per year.

(e) The projected demand of Jel filled is 125, 150, 185 and 220 LCk during 93 94, 94-95. 95-96 and 96-ropsoctively.

(f) The targetted production pl for 93-94 is 102 LCkm. This can met by stepping up the productic The installed capacity of J.F. cat is sufficient to meet the 8th plan quirements of the DOT.

**Post Offices in the Districts of Assa**

871. SHRI TARA CHARAN MA UMDAR: Will the Minister of COI MUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) what is the number of pr offices opened during the lastthr years district-wise in Assam;

(b) what is the number of ne post offices to be opehed by the of the Eighth Five Year Plan Assam; and

(c) what is the amount to be spe on this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE C THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNIC TIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (
The number of post offices oper district-wise during the last thr years in Assam is given in
Statement (See below).

(b) It is proposed to open 30 Extra Departmental Branch Post Of ces and 500 Departmental Sub pr Offices in the country as a whole d rmg the Eighth Five Year Plan

27 Extra Departmental Branch Po Offices and 3 Departmental Sub Ol ces have been sanctioned in Assa Under Annual Plan 92-93 and it pmnosed to open 25 Extra Pepai mental Branch Post Offices and Departmental Sub Offices in Asba under Annual Plan 1993-94. As t targets are fixed through Annu Plans, no provision has been take so far about the remaining year the 8th Plan.